

CLARENCE ERWIN McCLUNG

Prof. McClung is chairman of the local committee on arrangements. He holds the post of professor of zoology and director of the laboratory at the University of Pennsylvania, and is a trustee of the marine biological station at Woods Hole.

GEOLOGY—CHEMISTRY

Helium Found in Ontario

A widening of the field of production of helium gas to include the Canadian province of Ontario has been recently announced. The Ontario government claims that a deposit of helium gas has been discovered at Inglewood, about forty miles from Toronto. Three wells have been taken over by the government and are being worked. Commercial development of helium gas on a large scale is expected to result in time. The discovery was made during the war but was kept a secret until recently, when the wells were taken over by the government.

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ARCHAEOLOGY

Korean Beetle Decoration

A beetle that furnishes the principle decorative motif in a famous shrine in Japan has been identified as being the same insect as that figured on certain royal relics recently unearthed from a tomb in Korea.

Prof. Hachiro Yuasa of Kyoto Imperial University told the Pan Pacific Science Congress meeting at Tokyo that the distribution of the "jewel beetle" and the identity of the materials used in representing it are important evidence of the distribution of a common culture between ancient Japan and Korea.

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HEREDITY

Lungs and Marriage

The cautious young woman of the future will insist upon looking up the family history of her prospective husband, not to ascertain whether he can trace his lineage to the *Mayflower*, but to learn whether there is in his family a constitutional tendency to weakness of the respiratory system or other organs.

So eugenists claim, and their position finds support in a study to be published in the forthcoming number of the *Annals of Eugenics*, London, by Dr. Raymond Pearl, of the Institute for Biological Research, Johns Hopkins University.

The subject of the study is a family of thirteen brothers and sisters, all of whom had pneumonia one or more times before reaching the age of 19. Seven of the 13 died of it. One of the survivors had tuberculosis of the lungs and another presents clinical symptoms which make it probable that he also has.

A study of the records of 202 blood relatives of these thirteen children, in five generations, showed that 6.25 per cent of those examined on the father's side had tuberculosis, while on the mother's side 3.9 per cent had respiratory trouble in infancy and 3.2 per cent in childhood.

The evidence carefully collected and tabulated shows in the father's kinship, according to Dr. Pearl, a definite tendency toward constitutional inferiority of the respiratory system which manifested itself chiefly in a tendency to break down from pulmonary tuberculosis in early adult life, and in the mother's kinship a tendency to generally non-fatal respiratory infections, bronchitis and broncho-pneumonia, in infancy and childhood.

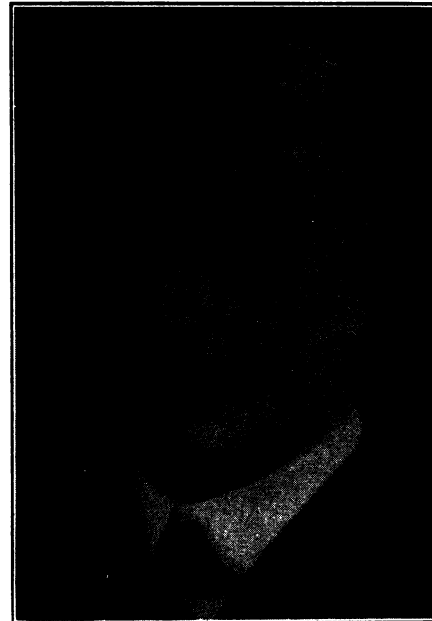
The union of these two constitutional traits through the mating of the father and mother produced in these children, according to Dr. Pearl, an extremely low resistance to any sort of respiratory infection.

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A motor plow that can be worked within six inches of vegetable rows or fences has been invented.

Recent tests of the mentality of a young gorilla revealed that the animal was decidedly right-handed, like most humans.

It required seven seconds longer for a British aviator to climb 1,500 feet with a wooden propeller than with a metal propeller.



BURTON EDWARD LIVINGSTON

Prof. Livingston has been permanent secretary of the American Association for the Advancement of Science since 1920. He is professor of plant physiology at the Johns Hopkins University, and has invented a number of devices for the study of plant environmental conditions.

A. A. S. MEETING

Science Radio Talks

In cooperation with the American Association for the Advancement of Science, SCIENCE SERVICE has arranged for a series of five radio talks on Science to be given during the Christmas meeting in Philadelphia. These will be given from Station WOO, the Wanamaker Store, and WIP, Gimbel Brothers, as follows:

Monday, December 27: 7:45 to 8:00 P. M.; Station WOO—"What Science Means to Humanity," Dr. Vernon Kellogg, Permanent Secretary, National Research Council, Washington.

Tuesday, December 28; 8:40 to 8:50 P. M.; Station WIP—"Artificial Light and Civilization," Dr. M. Luckiesh, Director Nela Laboratories, Cleveland, Ohio.

Wednesday, December 29; 7:55 to 8:10 P. M.; Station WOO—Address by Prof. Michael I. Pupin, Columbia University, New York, retiring president of the Association.

Thursday, December 30; 8:35 to 8:45 P. M.; Station WIP—"Why Plants Need Water," Prof. Burton E. Livingston, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Md.

Friday, December 31; 7:55 to 8:10 P. M.; Station WOO—"Science News from the Association Meeting," Dr. Edwin E. Slosson, Director, Science Service, Washington, D. C.

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